

HOW TO ADAPT A SCRIPT FOR READERS THEATER

- Choose a story or section of a book that is between 3-5 minutes long and photocopy it. Several sections may be chosen and photocopied for groups of students.
- Students read the text and think about plot, characters, and theme. Decide what characters and narrators are needed and assign a marker color to each.
- Highlight all dialogue with the appropriate marker.
- The text that is left is narration. Assign narration creatively by determining which character it pertains to and splitting it between the character and the character's narrator. Choose who will read what role.
- Add creative touches whenever possible. Have students practice reading the script in their roles. Have students imagine that they are reading the scene to a **radio audience**. **Radio audiences cannot see the speaker; they can only hear the speaker. The voice needs to be representative of how the character feels.**
- Make sure that students understand the **objectives** for their own participation:
 1. **Poise and Focus:** Students must stay "in character" at all times.
 2. **Characterization and Acting:** The actor should fully understand the scene and his/her role in it. This should be reflected in voice inflection, facial expressions, and body language.
 3. **Eye Contact:** The audience should always be able to see the actor's eyes. That is why rehearsal of the script is so important.
 4. **Projection and Diction:** The student should be able to be heard from the back of the classroom.
 5. **Pace:** The pace should not be too fast. Actors should anticipate their cues and be able to come in without pause.
 6. **Ensemble:** All actors in a scene should be working together to create their performance.
 7. **Peer Evaluation:** When a group is performing the rest of the class should be watching and listening. All peer evaluation should be presented positively. This can be done orally or on "stickie" notes that can be collected for later reflection.